

moved their flocks. Before he reached the place, they saw him coming, and finding him alone, they immediately consulted how they might destroy him. I make no doubt, my young friends, but you are astonished at the wickedness of these brothers; but alas, who knows to what lengths persons will go, when they have hardened their hearts against God! Those who envy their brother, when he is in prosperity, will do more than that when they have it in their power, if the providence of God does not prevent them. But it seems, Reuben, the eldest brother, was not quite so hard hearted as the others, and refused his concurrence in the bloody design. And in order to prevent it from being put into execution, he proposed to let him down into a pit, pretending that he might starve there, and they not imbrue their hands in his blood. Though Reuben's design really was to rescue him, and deliver him to his father. But this project was overruled, for just

after

after they had cast him, a party of foreign merchants ready to purchase slaves, agreed to sell poor Joseph of his coat of many colours, and daubed it with blood, and brought him home to their father, that coat in this corner from whence it was taken, the beast had devoured Joseph. Must these men be, who are fathers to so much pain and sorrow, count of his son's end, and have been no wonder in his aged heart. Learn the happiness of your conduct wound